

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03188

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ICJ, UR, CE
SUBJECT: ICJ ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 204893

1. MISOFF INFORMED BY ORDZHONIKIDZE (USSR) THAT SOVIET NATIONAL GROUP HAS NOMINATED PLATON MOROZOV FOR ANOTHER TERM.
2. ORDZHONIKIDZE SAID HE HOPED US CONTINUED SHARE USSR VIEW THAT PERMANENT MEMBERS OUGHT TO HAVE NATIONALS ON THE COURT. MISOFF PLEADED LACK OF FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS BUT INDICATED CLEAR EXPECTATION US WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD FIRMLY TO THAT VIEW.
3. ORDZHONIKIDZE INDICATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED JAYEWARDENE CANDIDACY WITH SRI LANKAN AND ASKED ON WHAT BASIS THEY PUTTING FORWARD CANDIDACY AT THIS TIME. ACCORDING ORDZHONIKIDZE SRI LANKAN RESPONDED BY CITING CONFIDENTIAL

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OF NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION TO THE EFFECT NON-ALIGNED UNDERREPRESENTED ON UN ORGANS AND THAT NON-ALIGNED WOULD USE THEIR VOTES TO CORRECT SITUATION. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY PARAS 160 AND 161 OF BELGRADE DECLARATION. END COMMENT. SRI LANKAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SINCE WEST CLEARLY OVER REPRESENTED AND SINCE THEY DID NOT EXPECT TO BEAT OUT A PERMANENT MEMBER TARGET WAS SEAT CURRENTLY

HELD BY FEDERICO DE CASTRO (SPAIN). ORDZHONIKIDZE
SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION SRI LANKANS WERE IN EARNEST ABOUT
CANDIDACY.

4. COMMENT: (A) ABOVE SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE OF WEST
AGREEING ON SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR DE CASTRO SEAT IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE. ITALIAN OFFER RE ILC (PARA 12 REFTL)
APPEARS VARIOUSLY INCONSISTENT WITH FACTS SINCE SUCCESSOR
TO AGO WOULD BE ELECTED BY ILC MEMBERS WHO ARE INDEPENDENT
EXPERTS (AND THUS WITH NO VOTE BY ITALY OR AN ITALIAN --
AGO HAVING DEPARTED). SOME ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, ALONG
THESE LINES MAY BE BEST WAY OUT SUCH AS VARIOUS WEO'S
WITH NATIONALS ON ILC INDICATING DISCREETLY TO FINNS
THAT WITHDRAWAL OF ICJ CANDIDACY LIKELY BE MAJOR FACTOR
INFLUENCING VOTE AT ILC IN 1979. PRESSURE MAY THEN TEND
TO SHIFT TO AFRICAN GROUP WHERE AGREEMENT ON SINGLE
CANDIDATE EVEN MORE UNLIKELY IF POSSIBLE. SRI LANKANS
MIGHT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES EVEN DECIDE TO WAIT UNTIL
1982 WHEN SINGH (INDIA) TERM EXPIRES.

(B) WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO CONSIDER WAYS OF ENCOURAGING
MANNER RATHER THAN AGO TO DROP OUT BECAUSE WE PREFER
AGO OR HAVE ANY DOUBTS THAT MANNER WOULD MAKE ANYTHING
BUT A GOOD JUDGE. MOREOVER, WE FORESEE ELECTION OF AGO
AS CREATING POTENTIAL SERIOUS AND FAR-REACHING PROBLEMS
FOR UK AND FRENCH CANDIDATES THREE YEARS HENCE IN TERMS
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OF POTENTIAL RESENTMENT AT ENTIRE WESTERN REPRESENTATION
BEING FROM EC-9 AND NATO. WE, HOWEVER, VIEW AGO AS
PROBABLY THE STRONGER CANDIDATE IN TERMS OF POTENTIAL
VOTES. FURTHERMORE, IN LIGHT OF FACT AGO CURRENTLY ON
ILC IT DIFFICULT THINK UP REASONABLE OFFER WHICH WOULD
ENCOURAGE HIM OR ITALY TO WITHDRAW. END COMMENT.
LEONARD

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